WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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Slams and Jabs.

By JAYBES.

Catholic Wage-Workers! Harken unto the words of Pope Leo XIII. in a speech on May 15th, 1891:

"But all agree, and there is no question whatever that some remedy must be found, and quickly, found, for the misery and wretchedness that press so heavily at this time on a large majority of the very poor. . . . By degrees it has come to pass that the workingmen have been given over, isolated and defenceless, to the carelessness of employers and the greed of unrestrained competition. And to this must be added the exaction of workingmen by usury, and the concentration of so many branches of trade in the hands of a few, which has the result that a handful of very rich men have been able to impose the yoke of the poor almost little better than slavery itself."

No matter, Catholic or Protestant, Jew or Buddhist, consider this statement. Pope Leo said that a remedy must be found. AND FOUND QUICKLY, and he also said that WAGE SLAVERY IS LITTLE BETTER THAN ANY OTHER FORM OF SLAVERY. In this we of the revolutionary Socialist convenant since. WE HAVE found the solution the working out of which we ask all Catholic workingmen and Protestant workingmen, and Jewish workingmen and Buddhist workingmen to participate. The "Yoke" is placed upon the workers in the industries where they sell their labor-power and it is there, irrespective of their creeds, that they must organise to lift the yoke that so heavily press upon them. We appeal to you fellow wage-workers, whoever you be and wherever you be to give this matter serious consideration. If you think, as we do that ONE GREAT INDUSTRIAL UNION is necessary before the workers can emancipate themselves, then your duty is clear.

The Workers' International Industrial Union is the new organisation in existence that embraces all wage workers not for political measures but for the overthrow of the capitalist system, and the establishment of the Industrial Republic. This, but not before then, will the mission of the working class be complete. For particulars regarding the movement write to the General Secretary of the W.I.I.U., Bates Avenue, Kew, Newtown, who will be pleased to supply you with all the necessary information. We have a branch in Melbourne, 47 Victoria street, where we will welcome you.

Compare, if you can, President Wilson today with Abraham Lincoln, of whom Leon once said: "Lincoln filled the Presidential chair and it has been empty ever since". Lincoln, speaking before a workingman's association on November 1864 said:

> "The strongest bond of human sympathy outside the family relation should be the uniting of all working people of all nations, tongues and kindred."

That is the aim of Socialism. This is the only way the working class can stop war, and bring about the establishment of the only democracy worth while, THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY. Wilson and other so-called democrats ask you to divide the working people of all nations so that, at a moment's notice they will be prepared to clutch at the throats of their fellow toilers in other countries. Lincoln sounded the reveille of the new age. Up then! ye! bloodsodden toilers of the world! Arise in the majesty of your might and banish this foul dream. "WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS YOU HAVE A WORLD TO GAIN."

THE BIG PUSH

During the last three weeks the circulation of the "I.S." has been pushed up six hundred extra copies a week—what part did you play in the push?

Comrades will be pleased to hear of the increase in the circulation. It is good news, for never was socialist propaganda more needed than at present. Empires are tottering, crowns going to the melting pot; the master class trembling with fear, and their flunkies in a state of panic, caused by the rumble coming from the slowly awakening masses. Their fears are that the workers of the world will echo the cry of our Russian comrades—"Long live the Workers' Industrial Republic"; let us hope that their fears are well founded and that the echo of our Russian comrade's cry will not die until we have a world set free.

The future must bring action on the part of the working class, so it behoves all rebels to get in as much work as possible, and the way to get in the work is by pushing the "I.S." Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and see if we make a better report possible at the end of next months' activities.

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THE

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May Day Musings.

By MARCIA.

Once again it is May Day, and at this time at least, the spirit of camaderie and fraternity seems to come with greater force and greater feeling than ever.

At this time we are readier to drop our differences of opinion, and remember only, that we are all in the great revolutionary army, striving for emanciaption; the old International spirit revives with greater zest, and as we "clasp hands across the sea" with our fellow workers of all lands, we echo with true feeling the words of our grand old comrade, i.e., "Workers of all lands unite."

On May day, although we are feeling tired, and perhaps a little dispirited with our struggles during the past year, fresh enthusiasm seems to flame within us, and we brace ourselves for renewed efforts.

Surely this year especially, we should take courage and prepare ourselves for a final struggle; for the last few years in particular we have been more than ever ground down and persecuted; but now we can see a glimmer of light ahead.

What if the old International has fallen, already its remains are heaving and palpitating with renewed life, and in a short time we shall have the glorious sight of the New International rising like the Phoenix, radiant and mighty from the ashes of the old. This time founded on the rock of Industrialism.

At this season, then, it will do us no harm to rest for a short time, and think for a little space of those who have brought the "Great Movement" to the position in which it stands to-day.

Let us dwell with gratitude on the noble men and women who have been the pioneers of the revolutionary movement. Men and women who have sacrificed their lives and liberties for the "cause," and then realising what they have done, rise with the new zeal, and try, at least, to be worthy to follow in their footsteps.

It is never harmful to stop awhile in our busy course, and, as it were, take a survey of events past and present, and to try and imagine how they will effect the future.

May Day is an annual milestone in the revolutionary journey, and where could we find a fitter time or occasion for a breathing space?

Shapes and shadows of our comrades who have "fought their fight," and are now gone from us, seem to flock around us, bidding us take courage and proceed with the work they so ably began, and upon looking back, on the trend of events, things are encouraging.

Since Karl Marx was the main agent in forming the first great "International Movement," we have progressed with giant strides, and although many times the workers have been beaten back in their struggles to gain more freedom, yet each defeat has taught them valuable lessons; they have gained experience in methods and tactics, until to-day we are looking forward to the birth of a new International which will be founded on the strong foundation of industrialism, which, as our Russian comrades, who have at last thrown off the shackles of capitalism, will tell you was the great factor in their success.

And talking of our Russian comrades, with what a glad thrill of delight we think of their achievements since last May Day.

What a celebration it must be for them, at last after years of tyranny and slavery; they hold up their heads as free men, and call to their comrades all over the world to do as they have done. Put away once and for all, the class that has enslaved them so long.

Most certainty Russia has achieved much, anr are you, who pride yourselves on your superiority in education and civilisation, to your comrades in Russia, going to be backward in following their example?

Will you not realise as these Russiants peasants have done, that men and women must organise in one solid body, and march on, past or over all obstacles until they reach their goal!

You have been kept back by reforms and so-called Labor Parties too long; you have struggled and brought into being a body of politicians who are looking for jobs, and who when you have placed them in power, merely play into the hands of the master class to further enslave you.

You have placed the other half of your trust in your craft unions, which have provided more fat billets for unscrupulous meal ticket artists: your leaders, who have sold you again and again.

You have allowed yourselves to be divided on the industrial field; and men have fought against women having the same wage as themselves, just as the latter have fought to receive them. Women have been trying to gain their emancipation by banding themselves together and abusing men for all their wrongs; men have been shouting about the physical and mental inferiority of women.

And all the while the capitalist is still serenely collecting his profits. What has he to fear? The politicians are doing their utmost to keep the present system flourishing. The craft union officials are too comfortable in their cosy jobs, to attempt to alter that position, and if the men and women like to squabble with each other about sex distinctions, so much the better. Anything in the world so long as they don't hit on the plan of attempting to fight him.

These have been the state of things in the past for years back, but we are hoping much better things for the future.

Here in Australia, the great strike which took place since last May Day, and its miserable failure, struck a mortal blow to craft unionism. No doubt the latter will die hard, but nevertheless we see with delight that its death throes have begun.

On the political field the workers are, at last, beginning to doubt the integrity of the Party they have worshipped so long.

The Labor politicians are losing their influence, and the worker is looking for something that brings him a clear message of emancipation.

Also there are great hopes that women will soon realise the futility of their sex organisation, and throw them to the winds; simply remember that they belong to the working class, that their emancipation will come simultaneously with that of their class. That capitalism is their only enemy, just as it is men's, and that when the two sexes stand together to fight their common foe, they will have advanced another step near their ultimate freedom.

Thus when we look back upon the lives of our early comrades it is with great gratitude for their sacrifices, and a silent homage to the pureness and integrity of their principles.

But this is not all we must do, comrades, the fight is still on, and we must rise from our retrospect only spurned on to greater efforts, by thoughts of those who have gone before. It is up to us to show ourselves worthy to call them comrades, and prove ourselves able to finish what they began.

If men and women were willing to give up life and liberty for the sake of laying the foundation stone of an edifice, which seemed at that time well night impossible to ever build; *are we not prepared to do* the same to put the finishing touches to that same colossal structure?

We have said the workers are seeking light; let it be our task to see that they get it; every thinking man and woman can do something to help along this great and noble work, remember that every individual counts, and everyone can do their "bit."

Let this May Day be a time when we resolve that by next May Day, we will have made visible progress on our way and resolving that it shall be so; make up our minds to carry the resolution into effect.

"Remember that we have but one weapon against that terrible organisation of selfishness which we attack, and that weapon is Union.

Yes, and it should be obvious union which we can be conscious of as we mix with others who are hostile or indifferent to the Cause; organised brotherhood is that which must break the spell of anarchial Plutocracy.

One man with an idea in his head is in danger of being considered a madman; two men with the same idea in common may be foolish, but can hardly be mad; ten men sharing an idea begin to act; a hundred draw attention as fanatics, a thousand and society *begins to tremble*, a hundred thousand and there is war abroad, and the Cause has victories tangible and real—and why only a hundred thousand?

Why not a hundred million, and peace on earth?

You and me who agree together, it is we who have to answer that question."

Judas Philosophises.

By F. SUTHERLAND.

Although his influence has perceptibly faded, Robert Blatchford still continues to help the capitalists, and denounce the working class, per medium of the capitalist press.

There was a time we were treated to almost weekly outburst from the "foremost Socialist in England," but that is of the past. Lord Northcliffe is a good *judge of a man's capacity* to lead the crowd, and when the influence of his protege is on the decline the Barnum of the newspaper world withdraws the exhibit or relegates it to an obscure spot.

Blatchford has no sense of perspective; he lays it on too thick, like the pub orator; his men are either too good or too bad; he altogether lacks impartiality, and withal is superficial in his reasoning, and oblivious of the most prominent facts.

In a recent article he lays the blame for he growing discontent with the conduct of the war on the working class or that section called "Democrats," and of course the strikers, who are he says "som[illegible] visionaries and discontented bonus hunters."

He tells them what the Germans did, or are reported to have done, when they entered Riga. They hanged above a hundred of the Russian revolutionary leaders. Therefore, we are led *to infer that it* would have been better for the Russians to have delayed the revolution or perhaps united under Kerensky to fight the Germans. But under the Czar, not hundreds but countless thousands of revolutionaries were killed, and when Kerensky got control for a brief period he also executed hundreds of them. So where's the difference.

A half truth is worse than a lie, and Blatchford is a master hand in manipulating half truths. He tells us the Huns compel Italians to work twelve hours in the fields. He ought to know that on the continent many farmers work twelve hours, and at certain seasons even longer. On American farms men often work from daylight to dark, and where motor ploughs are used work night shift.

He says under German rule British Democrats would have no vote, nor yet Germany, yet later on the same papers told us of many strikes in that country, be allowed to strike. We were told three years ago that no strikes were allowed [illegible] and that even the Essen works were held up and the men won.

Out of their lying mouths we condemn them. It is true the franchise is not so wide in Germany as in England, but England has not adult male suffrage such as existed in the United States, nor has the latter country universal suffrage such as prevails in this country. But what [illegible]. The people in none of these countries have the least say as to commencing, continuing or ending war. In time of war in every country democracy is nonexistent.

But Blatchford himself is responsible for the statement that previous to the war Germany fed her working class better and treated them better than England. He told us there were no slums in Germany, and that no man would knowingly be allowed to starve.

Lloyd George admitted his remedial legislation was copied from German models. Yet at that time no Socialist who was really a Socialist failed to understand. They knew well enough that the German capitalists in abolishing slums and absolute starvation from the land, were really desirous of breeding good soldiers, and physically fit, in a word, a nation of well-fed slaves.

England and France, too, believed in wage slavery, but were not far-seeing enough to see that they (the slaves) were wasted. Result, both England and France are suffering from the most fatal of all diseases—physical degeneration induced by chronic poverty, neglect and hopeless outlook.

Blinded with the same [illegible] stricken with the same [illegible], Blatchford now says to the British workers, w[illegible] will win if you ask [illegible] wages, [illegible] grumble about food, and in a word, [illegible] and live on nothing per day. [illegible] ver a word about those who keep p[illegible] and by so doing render a rise in wages inevitable.

Never a word about the waste land in England, in Scotland, and in Ireland, which if cultivated would almost supply the nation with food.

Germany has much poorer soil than England, yet it is almost all in use. Blatchford, like one William Morris Hughes, is very tender in his dealings with capitalists and landowners; a breath of suspicion might wilt their delicate sensibilities.

It is always the slave class is to blame. It is not wrong for the capitalists to amass unheard of profits, but why the workers should ask that wages keep pace with prices is inexplicable.

Even if they were asking for much more than a living wage [illegible] the capitalist getting much more than normal profits.

Is the "bonus-hunter" any worse than the profit hunter? Of course not, [illegible] think you Northcliffe and his pals are going to pay big prices for a[illegible] [illegible] forth the robbery in war as [illegible] committed by their class. No; they [illegible] commit mistakes of that kind. Naturally enough there must be a show of impartiality, so Blatchford tells us we must [illegible] that "class feuds and party feuds and **dividends** and rates of pay don't matter."

Like the writer of Genesis, who concludes his account of the work done on one of the days of creation by saying "He made the stars also," as if it was just a trifling act compared with creating something on our insignificant planet, Blatchford sandwiches "the dividends" between party feuds and wages, as something trivial or commonplace. He lacks perspective.

Dividends, profits, exploitation, that is the war, without them the war would not exist for one hour, would be devoid of any meaning if it continued to exist. We may indeed be "visionaries," as the article alleges, but we were never in such an exalted state of mind as to believe that Sergeant Blatchford of the Dublin Fusiliers, who hobnobbed and motored and inspected troops with Roberts and Kitchener, and took on intellectual prostitution for the Northcliffe lying press, would ever recognise or sense the true nature of this war and most other wars, and certainly

The Centenary of the Birth of Marx.

By E. S. Hanks.

On May 5th, 1818, in the German town of Treves, not far from the Rhine, was born one who in late years was destined to have an influence on human ideas of sociology second to none during that century, a century be it noted, rich in discovery in every domain of human investigation.

To compare the relative merits of investigators in different fields of research is perhaps an impossibility, still if any may lay claim to special distinction, one would be forced to mention the name of Charles Darwin in the natural sciences, and the name of Karl Marx in the social sciences.

The hundredth anniversary of Charles Darwin has passed, he was born in 1809; and this year will see the hundredth anniversary of Karl Marx, May 5th, 1918.

The work of Darwin, "The Origin of Species," placed the natural reiences on a scientific footing. In this work the theory of the evolution of all animal and plant life from simple single cells, and what was more important, a clear and definite exposition of the factors at work ceaselessly producing these changes, was placed before the world. What Darwin did for the organic sciences, Marx has done for the social sciences.

In the same year that Darwin published his great work, 1859, Marx also published his "Critique of Political Economy": the forerunner of his great work "Capital." This work shows the nature of present society, the lines of its evolution from past forms of society, and clearly points out the factors that have produced these great changes in the past, traces their working in the present system, causing the final dissolution of the present form and the rise of a new and higher form of society; just as a chicken develops within the egg-shell till finally it bursts it asunder.

It is the nature of these discoveries that has placed the Socialist movement on a sound and scientific basis. There were, prior to Marx, many schools of Socialist dreamers. The idea of these sects was to establish a community where the people would live up to the ideas invented by their leaders, and thus by their good example cause the rest of the world to follow suit. According to these Utopian schemes, it did not matter what period of history or what stage of civilisation a nation was in. All that was necessary was to adopt the ideas and formulas of these sects, just like a man would put on a suit of clothes. Quite different was the work of Marx. He studied economics (the anatomy of society) and history (the past records of society) with the view of finding out the key of the changes and progress of the human race.

Darwin has shown that the great factors of animal life are the securing of food and the propagation of the species. Right throughout nature the tendency is for living things to increase to a greater number than the food supply will stand. This inevitably means a struggle in which the weaker (or less fit in some direction) die out, and the propagation of the species is left to those who survive—i.e. "The survival of the fittest." To illustrate with one example—one that is ofter used:—The giraffe is an animal which lives in desert country feeding on the green tops of trees. In time of drought etc., the animals with the longest necks would survive through being able to reach the highest leaves, out of the reach of those with shorter necks. The long necked ones would be left to breed, and pass on their characteristics to their offspring. This same combing out going on generation after generation, is known as the survival of the fittest.

This "survival of the fittest," acts through many ways in nature. It may be color, as in beetles, birds, lizards, etc., or the stealth and ferocity, as in the preying animals. Speed, smell, sight, strength, minuteness, in fact any characteristic at all may be the price of survival. In the early period of the human race, the same law applied in all its nakedness. But as man marched onward, the invention of tools gave man a leverage over nature and he is able to modify his environment by his own efforts. And it was in this domain that Marx labored with such great results.

With the human race just as with the rest of organic life, the main question is the **securing of subsistence and the propagation of the race.** But as Franklin and Labriola have so well stated.—"Man is the tool-using and tool-making animal." And it is the fact that man ever improve his tools and machines of production—his technique, and thus alters his material conditions of existence, and the following from the above, his whole social political and moral life; it is this fact which gives the key to history—to the changing systems, the rise and fall of various classes, and the great conflicts of the past and the present.—This fact enables students to see the symptoms of dissolution in the present capitalist system, and point to the inevitable rise of a higher form of society.

Bound up with, and part and parcel of the above theory is also the theory, of surplus value, and coming from the social relations brought about by the changing conditions of existence the great drama of history, the struggle between oppressed and oppressor,—the class struggle. Hidden, at times, open at times—taking at one time one form, at another time a different form but ever, from the dissolution of primitive communism, in existence, till we see it finalised to-day. Capitalists on the one hand, proletarians on the other. The conflict between capital and labor.

In honoring the work of Marx, perhaps the greatest tribute one could pay him is to study and propound his theories. Educate and organise the proletariat the class to whose emancipation Marx devoted his life.

The Russian Revolution.

A Review and a Retrospect.

Compiled by J. A. D., W. H., J. B. S.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE).

The Petrograd Soviet held a meeting on November 8th, at which Trotsky made his declaration that the Government no longer existed; that some of the Ministers had been arrested, and that the preliminary Parliament had been dissolved. He introduced Nicholas Lenin as "an old comrade whom we welcome back."

Lenin, who was received with prolonged cheers, said, "Now we have a revolution. The peasants and workmen control the Government. This is only a preliminary step toward a similar revolution everywhere. The first problem is to end the war. We shall offer a peace acceptable to the proletariat of all countries, publish all secret treaties, take over all land from the landlords, and establish the control over industries. The consequence will be the accomplishment of the third social revolution."

At the close of the sitting a declaration was read from the Democratic Minimalist Party at the Soviet, stating that the party disapproved of the coup d'etat, and withdrew from the Soviet (the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates). The Minimalists were opposed to the forcible seizing of the Government by the Soviets, in spite of the fact that the Provisional Government had been in power for eight months, and had not held the elections for the Constituent Assembly as promised in October. Also the fact that Kerensky and the Minister of the Provisional Government had been guilty of treason towards the working class and the revolution in plotting with Korniloff for a counter-revolution. In spite of these facts some of the Mensheviki still placed trust in Kerensky. Later it was announced that the split in the Council had been healed and a document was issued as follows:—

"To all army corps and divisional committee: To-day there is a reunion of the Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates. The army committees are ordered to send delegates for expressing the will of the army. We suggest to you to send delegates immediately from your midst. To refuse to take part in deciding the destiny of the revolution is a sin which history will not pardon. Elect a delegate from each 25,000 and send them to the re-union.

The Petrograd Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates.

Subsequently the General Congress of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates convened with 260 out of 560 delegates in attendance. The chairman declared that the time was not propitious for political speeches, and the order of business of the Congress approved, was as follows:—

1st. Organisation of power.
2nd. Peace and war.
3rd. A Constituent Assembly.

The officers elected comprised fourteen Maximalists, including Lenin, Zinofieff, and Leon Trotsky; and seven revolutionary Socialists. A delegation was appointed to initiate peace negotiations, "with a view to taking steps to stop bloodshed." A resolution proposed by the Minimalists that an effort be made to reach an agreement with the Provisional Government was voted down. Of the 560 members of the Congress, 250 are Bolsheviki, 150 Socialist Revolutionaries, 60 Minimalists, 14 of the Minimalist International Group, 6 of the Nationalist Socialist Group, 3 non-party Socialists, the others being independent.

On November 11th it was stated that Kerensky was making a stand at Tsarskoe Selo (18 miles from Petrograd), the chief radio station. He had the support of 25,000 troops. On November 13th the revolutionary army completely defeated the counter-revolutionary forces of Kerensky and General Korniloff.

Trotsky issued a proclamation as follows "History will record that on the night of November 12th M. Kerensky's attempt to move counter revolutionary forces against the capital received a decisive reply. Kerensky is now retiring, and we are taking the offensive. The sailors, soldiers and workmen of Petrograd, know how to impose, and will impose with arms, the will and power of the democracy. The bourgeoisie endeavoured to separate the army from the revolution. M. Kerensky attempted to break it by the violence of Cossackdom. Both efforts have failed.

"The workmen's and peasants' great conception of the supremacy of democracy has united the army's ranks and steeled its will. The whole country will see that the Soviet's authority is not a passing phase, but an unchangeable fact, denoting the supremacy of the workmen, soldiers and peasants. Opposition to the Kerenskys is opposition to the landlords, bourgeoisie and the Korniloffs. It is also an affirmation of the people's right to peace, free life, land, bread and power. There will be no return to the past. We have still to fight to conquer obstacles and to sacrifice ourselves. The way is now opened and victory is certain. Long live the revolutionary democracy and Socialistic Russia!"

In Petrograd, trains still ran, the electric light was still burning, trading continued, and the postmen still went their daily round. Thieves disguised in officers' uniforms, on being caught looting shops, were shot in the streets for dishonoring the revolution. Such were the backgrounds of the change in government.

At 3 O'clock in the afternoon of Nov. 14th, General Krasno., commander of the Government forces, made a call on the commander-in-chief, where Kerensky was, who appeared nervous and excited. General Krasnoff reported the conversation: "General Kerensky," he said, "you have betrayed me. Your Cossacks say they will arrest me and give me up to the sailors."

"Yes," I answered; "such a discussion is now going on. There appears to be little sympathy for you."

"Do the officers feel the same way?" he asked.

"Yes".

"What shall I do? Shall I need to commit suicide"?

"If you are an honest man you will go to Petrograd under a white flag and appear before the Revolutionary Committee, where you will negotiate as head of the Government".

Kerensky agreed to this, reported General Krasnoff, and he was promised a guard. He objected to a guard of sailors on the ground that some enemies were among them. He wanted to wait till night, bur finally agreed to make the trip by daylight. "I went and called Colonel Kishkoff of the Tenth Don Cossacks, and ordered him to appoint a guard of eight men. A half hour later the Cos-

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our vision never extended so far as to believe that he would be honest enough to admit the fact if by any conceivable means he ever reached that far in his investigations.

We know his type, and they are very useful to our real enemies, the capitalists. We have had a few examples before his time.

There was Father Vaughan, who used to orate against the vices of the rich, but was always careful to point out that the poor had vices as well. This looked impartial. He did not stop to think that the vices of the poor largely arise from purely necessary natural demands, and the vices of the wealthy from sheer idleness, and temptation caused by the dependence of the poor upon them for the very means of life.

It is not idleness itself, nor yet that a man dines four or more times a day and absorbs certain quantities of liquor that creates vice or at least accounts for it, but the fact that some human beings are compelled by sheer necessity to gratify the vicious fendencies of those who hold the means of life.

If all were rich, or all were poor, then vice could only exist by mutual consent, and just then it would lose its hideous aspect, because no man or woman would initiate or continue a vice which was not beneficial to them, and which they could leave off when they desired.

Necessity caused by exploitation is the main cause of vice. Were Father Vaughan to say as much, the capitalist press would have suppressed his remarks.

We also had Roosevelt who raved and raged against the predatory trusts, but was always careful to say the unions were also to blame. The extent of his damage to the cause of the American profiteers can be gauged from the fact that one of the trusts, at least, subscribed to his campaign fund.

In this country the Sydney "Bulletin" endeavours to turn the trick, but with very indifferent success—its political influence, always a negligible quantity, is now approaching zero. All of which shows the necessity of understanding first principles.

Had Blatchford comprehended the nature of the class struggle he would have seen, and had he intelligently read history, would have known, that no possible or conceivable set of circumstances, no event, however untoward or unexpected, however tremendous or tragic, can for any considerable time conceal the presence in society of the class struggle.

The exploiter may sympathise with the exploited, but even whilst in the very act he is actively robbing him or scheming how he may do so. The exploited may sympathise with the losses of the exploited in war, but even at that moment they are compelled by sheer necessity, to ask their masters for bread.

In these circumstances how can sensible men expect a truce in the class war.

It is not for the poor a matter of sentiment, but a matter of necessity, of life or death, a state of things existing both in peace and in war, and can only be terminated by the adoption of social ownership.

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THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

A Review and a Retrospect.

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sacks told me that Kerensky could not be found. Kerensky had fled in disguise from Catchina.

The Cossacks were willing to come to an agreement with the Bolsheviki, only the officers being opposed.

Fighting took place at Moscow from the 11th to the 15th of November. Government troops and the Bolsheviki both using artillery; after a siege of the Kremlin, the Bolsheviki captured Moscow and won other cities of Northern Russia. It was stated that Kerensky failed for ammunition; the Bolsheviki having control of factories and supplies. On November 19th it was stated that the Grand Duke Nicholas had joined General Kaledin, who promised to restore the monarchy, and who had assumed the dictatorship of the Donetz basin. Korniloff was then leading a force from Odessa to junction with that of General Kaledin, who intended remaining at Novotcherkask, the capital of the Province of the Don Cossacks.

Trotsky, in an interview published in the New York "Times" of November 24th was asked: "What will the Government do if Russia's Allies refuse to enter into negotiations for peace?"

"If the Allied Governments do not support the policy of a democratic peace, Trotsky replied, "the allied peoples will support us against their governments. Our international policy is calculated not for capitalistic [illegible] but for the support of the working masses."

"Does the Government think a separate peace with [illegible] is possible under existing [illegible]?"

"We [illegible] separate peace with Germany [illegible] for a universal peace with the European nations."

"What will the Government do if Germany [illegible] to negotiate for peace will it continue the war?"

"We [illegible] on the German army and the working class to make a continuance of the war impossible," Trotsky replied. "If, however, our frank and honest offers of peace will meet no response, we would declare a revolutionary war against German Imperialism; we would mobilise all our forces, confiscate large food supplies and persecute the war as energetically as we did the revolution. But we have every ground to think that our offer of peace will make impossible a continuation of the war on all fronts."

"What is the country's attitude toward the Governmental change?" asked the correspondent.

All the bourgeoisie is against us. The greater part of the intellectuals are against us, or hesitating, awaiting a final outcome. The working class is wholly with us. The army is with us. The peasants, with the exception of the exploiters, are with us. The Workmen's and Soldiers' Government is a government of workingmen, soldiers, and peasants against the capitalists and landowners."

On November 20th the All Russian Congress of Workmen's and Soldiers' delegates ordered the Council of the Peoples' Commissionaries to assume power and offer all the belligerants an immediate aristice for the purpose of opening pourparlers for a democratic peace. The Council ordered the Commander-in-chief forthwith to offer enemy commanders an armistice for the purpose of opening pourpariers, to keep the Council informed by telegraph of the progress of the pourparlers, and to sign a preliminary act only after the Council approved of it. The above is signed "Lenin, President of the Council, Trotsky, Foreign Affairs," and three others.

M. Lenin issued a proclamation to the peasants and workers asserting that the Government was now in his hands. He ordered the local Peasants' Councils to take over the estates and to hold them pending the preparation of the scheme for their partition. One Nov. 22nd the Bolsheviki commenced to publish the secret treaties. In a highly sensational speech delivered before the Central Executive Committee of the Soviets, M. Trotsky said the peace decree hal already been printed in all languages, beginning with Germany. The peace decree marked the begining of a new era in history It came as a surprise to the red-tape governing class of Europe, who first regarded it as a party manifesto, not as an act of the Russian Government. The allied nations treated it with the greatest hostility. The enemy welcomed it as an indication of Russian weakness while the bourgeoisie classes in Germany and Austria showed alarm at the Bolshevist victory. At the first circumstances were not propitious for a formal proposal of peace, as doubt existed abroad whether the Government could maintain itself. Its authority had now been established in both capitals, and all important centres of the country. Accordingly diplomatists were beginning by degrees to enter into relations with it. The greatest hostility was exhibited on the part of England, who played a leading part at the present juncture, and who had suffered least from the war, while she stood to gain the most. France, who had suffered most, responded to the Russian Revolution with the bourgeoisie Ministry of Clemenceau, which was the last effort of French Imperialism. Italy, disillusioned by her losses, welcomed it with enthusiasm. America had joined in the war not for the sake of ideals, as Wilson declared, but with a view to financial and industrial advantages. Germany, owing to economic difficulties, was inclined to peace. The reception of the decree by Western Europe in general justified the greatest optimism. The decree possessed world-wide importance, and dealt a death blow at the war. It remained to make formal proposals of peace.

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

BARRIER BRANCH.

Those of our enemies who think that Barrier Branch is dead because no reports of our activities have appeard in these columns, during the past few weeks, are very much mistaken. Our members, whether it be from the soap box, from the union hall, or any other place where working class ideas may be propagated, are always out to deliver the goods. Com. Bannister, Lit. Sec., and other enthusiastic members are always on the scene with papers and pamplets, wherever the working people of Broken Hill are assembled together. Through the untiring efforts of members we are able to dispose of more literature expounding the principles of scientific Socialism than any branch in Australia.

Although seriously handicapped through lack of speakers we are still able to hold forth every Sunday in the hall Last Sunday Com. T. Hytten lectured on "The High Cost of Living." The lecturer compared the rise in prices to the increase in the world's gold production, which, no doubt, is the cause of the rise.

The address was well illustrated by diagrams which the lecturer had gone to great trouble to prepare, showing the gold production, cost of living, and commercial crisis caused by overproduction of commodities during the periods 1890 to 1910.

At the conclusion of the lecture many questions were asked, which were satisfactorily answered by the speaker. Several of the questioners seemed very reluctant at parting with the good old Labor Party idea that the working man is robbed of his product over the shop counter.

Next Sunday a comrade is going to lecture on "Socialism and the War." This lecture, coming from one who has spent many years of his life amongst Socialists in other lands, should prove particularly interesting.

The demand for copies of the "I.S." is steadily increasing, and in the near future we hope to considerably enlarge our order for the paper.

H.G.S.

MELBOURNE NOTES.

Will Smith lectured at the A.S.P. hall, 47 Victoria st., on Sunday 21, on "Revolution or Reform." Will Smith is a member of the Australian Labor Party and the Victorian Socialist Party.

Although, he said, he agreed with the Australian Socialist Party, "all but half of a tenth," yet he preferred to dilute his Socialist wine with Labor Party water. He reckons he can do more for the working class by "pooling his opinions with the Labor Party," and although he does not believe in the efficacy of Protection, nor that the workers pay the taxes, yet he is prepared to advocate all these, and the tactics that necessarily follow, because they are in the Labor Party's platform. His lecture was one of abstractions and though he spoke in favor of revolution as against reform, the lecture was a mere play of words and had nothing concrete about it.

A warm discussion followed, in which is was shown that the Labor Party is helping to blindfold the working class, and lead them into the "Servile State," the logical evolution of present capitalistic society, unless the working class thrown off bandages of ignorance from their eyes and determine by right organisation and tactics to follow the road of revolution to their emancipation.

All workers in and around Melbourne, are cordially invited to come along to these lectures on Sunday everings at 7.30, and they will hear something worth while both in lectures and the discussion that follows.

Brother Smith said he had prepared his lecture in a hurry, and would be pleased to give it again some other time when he would have his data better prepared. We hope next time that he will have lost his "abstract" and give us something more concrete.

Monday, 22nd April, was Eight Hours' day, and the craft unions had their usual procession. Although it is the 62nd anniversary of the Eight Hours' movement, the biggest proportion of unions generally are still working $8\frac{3}{4}$ to over nine hours per day, in spite of the "Age" telling us that eight hours "once an ideal anxiously fought for, is now for several decades an agreeable reality." Craft unionism has not yet reached its ideal of eight hours labor, eight hours recreation and eight hours rest a day. One little notice on a lorry said "Workers agitate for industrial Unionism" and really it was the only thing in the whole procession that meant anything. Notices like "Be loyal, buy local products" mean nothing unless the workers get the full value of their labor in the prodzeing of those products. This is only possible by organising into a true Industrial Union aiming at Labor taking and holding all means of production and distribution for the use of all workers; only then will a Labor procession have the significance it should have. And then agressive unionism will throw into the dust bin, such mottoes as "Defence, not Defiance."

Sales of the "International Socialist" are booming, every copy sold out by Monday morning. If literature sellers would only come along, we could soon double and treble the number now sold weekly in Melbourne viz. 50 dozen. All those willing to help in this work of education, come along, we will be pleased to see you.

—Press Correspondent.

SOME ICE FOR JOE SWEBLESSES.

To the Editor.

Melbourne.

Dear Comrade,—Having read the letter under date 26th March, in the "International Socialist," I feel it my duty as an Ex-secretary of the Russian Association, to put this matter right, in the eyes of those concerned.

I was in attendence at the meeting of the joint committee when the matter of speakers for the celebration, was being discussed. In the above mentioned letter, Mr. Sweblesses protests against some statement having been made to the effect that he attempted to have the A.S.P. speaker omitted.

The delegate from the A.S.P. had every right to believe that this was so, owing to the conduct of delegates representing the V.S.P. and the Women's Peace Army.

Mr. Sweblesses is quite correct when he says that he was "quite willing to withdraw the V.S.P. speaker" but when the allotment of time was being drawn up for the speaker, time had been distributed amongst all the other speakers, and the speaker from the A.S.P. had been left out entirely

To this mode of procedure I objected, inasmuch as the Russian Association had sent out invitations to all organisations to meet in committee, to make the celebration a success, and we have no right whatever to cut out an organisation without its delegate agreed. The delegate of the A.S.P. on no occasion, said that if he had not asked I. B. Scott to speak, he would be prepared to withdraw him. What he did say was: "I. B. Scott has been appointed by the A.S.P., as a speaker at the Russian Revolution celebration, and he is preparing his speech."

Trusting this will put the matter right.—Yours for the revolution,

V. PETRUCHENIA.

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Does the "I.S." suit you? Do you think it is doing good work. Do you wish to see the good work continue. If so, show your appreciation and assist by getting subscribers also donations to our Press Fund. Funds MUST be had to carry on.

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Any branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this office

BROKEN HILL.

[illegible] Hall, [illegible]

All [illegible] making their way to the [illegible] will receive a welcome at the above address.

CORRIMAL.

Rebels [illegible] South Coast, come along, link up with [illegible] organisation. [illegible]

Meetings [illegible]

[illegible]

Railway Street, [illegible]

Corrimal

IPSWICH BRANCH.

Branch [illegible]

[illegible] Outdoor propaganda [illegible]

[illegible]

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AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Ancient Society—Lewis H. Morgan; [illegible] posted, 6/3.

Charles Darwin and Karl Marx—E. A[illegible]; paper, 3d.; posted, 4d.

Economics of Socialism—H. M. Hyndman; cloth, 3/6; posted, 3/9.

Introduction to Socialism—N. A. Richardson; paper, 3d.; posted, 4d.

Love's Coming of Age—E. Carpenter; cloth, 1/6; posted, 1/8.

Landmarks of Scientific Socialism—Engels; cloth, 4/-.

Mutual Aid—P. Kropotkin; paper, [illegible] posted, 1/8.

New Socialism, The—R. R. La-Monte; paper, 6d.; posted, 7d.

IMPORTANT.

When ordering literature it is well to add the cost of registration (3d.). It is necessary to guarantee delivery.

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